

An Important Message from Jennifer Toth, Deputy Director of Transportation

Sobering Facts About Impaired Driving

What takes about 48 minutes? Maybe it's your workout or your daily drive to work. During that time, one more person in the United States will die because of drunk driving.

That's just one of the sobering facts I'm sharing on behalf of the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) this month as the agency reminds everyone about the dangers of impaired driving. NHTSA launched its "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign in August. I think you'll agree that this is one message we all need to remember every day.

Impaired driving — defined as driving under the influence of alcohol or any drug, including prescription medication — kills and severely injures thousands of people on our nation's roadways. It is 100 percent preventable, yet lives are lost or changed forever because of it. Consider these facts:

- There were more than 5,400 alcohol-related crashes reported on Arizona's roadways during 2012, killing 281 people and injuring 3,720.
- Across the United States, nearly 10,000 people died because of impaired driving in 2012. That's the equivalent of about 20 jumbo jets crashing each year.

Can you imagine the public outcry if a jumbo jet crashed every six weeks for an entire year? Yet we don't see the same level of intolerance for impaired driving. In fact, more than 17 million U.S. drivers admit they've driven *one or more times* during the previous year despite feeling like they were over the "legal limit."

I'm asking each of you to remember these facts and share them with your family and friends. There's never an excuse to drive impaired or for any of us, or our loved ones, to be a passenger in a vehicle with an impaired driver behind the wheel.

You can help raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving. There are some great materials available at no cost on the NHTSA website: nhtsa.gov/drivesober/get-involved/. Here's what you can do:

- Print posters and put them up where people will see them.
- Download wallpaper for your desktop.
- Post a Facebook icon.
- Share the TV spots and other videos.

Most importantly, **always** drive sober — and remind your family, friends and others to do the same.

Updating Arizona's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)

Reducing fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads in Arizona is the goal of our state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The federal government requires every state to develop an SHSP that is multidisciplinary and driven by data, and that integrates "the 4 E's": engineering, education, enforcement and emergency medical services. Arizona's first SHSP was developed in 2007. Now, ADOT is working in tandem with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, the Department of Public Safety, the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Federal Highway Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Association and dozens of stakeholders statewide, to update our SHSP to be in compliance with MAP-21.

Ten task forces began meeting earlier this month to develop strategies that address factors most common in crashes that result in fatal or serious injuries. Thanks to those of you who are volunteering your time and expertise to serve on one or more of our task forces.

We are about halfway through this update process. I look forward to sharing Arizona's updated SHSP with all of you in the spring of 2014.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. T. Starr". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.